

Abstract of the Disclosure

Apparatus for transmitting a data stream  
between cards connected by a midplane breaks  
the data stream into a plurality of channels.  
The apparatus comprises a serializer for each  
channel. Serialized data is transmitted across  
the midplane to a deserializer at the  
destination. Sequential cells are sent in  
different channels. Cell ordering is preserved  
by staggering the start of cell transmission in  
the channels. The invention permits data to be  
transmitted across a mid plane using a reduced  
number of data lines. The data stream on each  
card may be carried in a wide bus at a  
relatively low clock rate. Apparatus according  
to the invention may be used to transmit an  
OC-192 data stream across a pin-limited  
interface.

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